38 DECLASSIFIED EXCISE POL 14 VIET-S

(44)

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL

Action MJA690JIA227

FE PP RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 5086 2450300
Info ZNY CCCCC
P 020221Z SEPT 66
SS FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
C TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
SP STATE GRNC
SAH BT
L C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5086
H
IO SEPT 02
P
NSC HW DANANG'S TEL SENT SAIGON 82 SIGNED POLAD FRANCIS SEPT 01
INR REF: POLAD 81
AID 1. SEPT 1 [redacted] CONFIRMED THAT ONLY CHANGE IN QUANG TIN ELECTION SLATES MADE BY CENTRAL SCREENING COMMITTEE WAS DISQUALIFICATION OF PHAN THONG, FIRST CANDIDATE SLATE I. NUMBER TWO CANDIDATE MOVED UP TO FIRST POSITION AND "ALTERNATE" BECAME MEMBER OF SLATE. PRECISE STATUS OF ALTERNATE ON SLATE I STILL NOT CLEAR (POLAD 42).
RSR 2. THERE WILL BE 100 POLLING PLACES ESTABLISHED IN 55 LOCATIONS WITHIN THE PROVINCE.
3. [redacted] SAID THAT JUST UNDER 100,000 VOTERS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED IN QUANG TIN.
4. HE SAID THAT 2,400,000 INFORMATION ITEMS (LEAFLETS, PAMPHLETS, POSTERS, ETC) HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE RE ELECTIONS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 10/6/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

b-1 ed

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PAGE TWO RUMJIR 5086 C O N F I D E N T I A L
400,000 OF THESE HAD BEEN DROPPED INTO VC CONTROLLED AREAS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES.
5. [redacted] PREDICTED THAT 80 PCT OF REGISTERED VOTERS WILL ACTUALLY GO TO POLLS. b-1 ed
6. [redacted] SAID [redacted] WAS OFFERING A REWARD TO ANY [redacted] DISTRICT CHIEFS WHO WERE ABLE TO TURNOUT MORE THAN 80 PCT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS. ON THE OTHER HAND ANY DISTRICT CHIEF WHICH ALLOWED TURNOUT TO FALL BELOW 80 PCT WOULD BE CHASTISED.
7. [redacted] HAD LET IT BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE THAT PERSONS WHO DID NOT VOTE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TRAVEL AFTER ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT WHILE THIS WAS "NOT VERY DEMOCRATIC" IT WAS NECESSARY DUE TO POOR EDUCATION OF MANY OF THE VILLAGERS.
8. HE EXPECTS VIET CONG WILL TRY TO DISRUPT THE ELECTIONS AND SAID [redacted] HAD ALREADY CAPTURED SEVERAL VC CADRE WITH THIS INTENTION NEAR TAM KY.

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9. IN AN ATTEMPT TO THWART VC THEFT OF ID AND VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS PROVINCE CHIEF HAS AUTHORIZED DISTRICT CHIEFS TO ISSUE TEMPORARY ID CARDS AND VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS . DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES MUST APPROVE REPLACEMENT OF VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS. THIS IS TO GUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE MULTIPLE VOTING BY OVER ZEALOUS SUPPORTERS OF ONE OR

ANOTHER OF THE CANDIDATES.

10. DOES NOT BELIEVE RADICAL BUDDHISTS WILL BE ABLE TO MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE BOYCOTT IN PROVINCE. HE EXPECTS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MAY BE SOME FEW BUDDHISTS WHO PURPOSELY INVALIDATE THEIR VOTES.

11. SAID THAT IN QUANG TIN THE CAMPAIGN HAD GONE WELL" SO FAR".

TO DATE OVER 12,000 PERSONS HAVE HEARD THE CANDIDATES SPEAK.

12. HE PREDICTED THAT VNQDD SLATES I AND IV WOULD PROBABLY EACH WIN ONE SEAT AND THAT THIRD SEAT WAS TOSS UP BETWEEN CATHOLIC SLATE II AND MILITARY SLATE III.

13. SAID THAT CONFUSION RE PURPOSE OF "NATIONAL ASSEMBLY" NOT LIMITED TO POPULACE BUT EXTENDED TO SOME OF THE CANDIDATES AS WELL. HE SAID THAT SOME CAMPAIGN SPEECHES SOUNDED AS THOUGH THE MAN WAS RUNNING FOR PARLIAMENT NOT FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

14. COMMENT: IS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC RE ELECTIONS IN QUANG TIN. HAS GOOD SECURITY PLAN AND WILL BE ABLE TO STIMULATE GOOD VOTER TURNOUT WITHOUT ALIENATING PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE HONEST.

GP-3

LODGE
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE DELIVERY TO S/S-O AT 12:42 AM 9/2/66.

PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA AT 12:42 AM 9/2/66.

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